

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 AGRE-00 IGA-02 FDRE-00 SP-02

SS-15 NSC-05 DHA-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SSO-00

INRE-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 EB-07 IO-14 USIE-00 /070 W

-----059131 051718Z /47

O 051641Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANJUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4486

AMEMBASSY DAKAR IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS BANJUL 0943

DEPARTMENT FOR AF/W

DEPARTMENT PASS AFR/SFWA

DAKAR FOR RDO/RFFPO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID US GA

SUBJ: GAMBIA GOVERNMENT REQUESTS US FOOD ASSISTANCE

1. ACTING PRESIDENT A.B. N'JIE SUMMONED CHARGE JULY 5 TO MAKE URGENT GOTG REQUEST FOR EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE TO COVER FOOD CROP SHORT-FALL EXPERIENCED WITH 1976 HARVEST. HE ALSO DELIVERED WRITTEN APPEAL WHICH IS SUMMARIZED BELOW.

2. MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES IN FALL OF 1976 ESTIMATED THAT FROM 40-70 PER CENT OF EARLY MILLET CROP WAS LOST TO PESTS. (VICE PRESIDENT NOTED WITH APPRECIATION SUBSTANTIAL US CROP PROTECTION ASSISTANCE WHICH COMMENCED SHORTLY THEREAFTER). AS RESULT, ACCORDING GOTG ESTIMATES, FOOD SITUATION IS CRITICAL IN PARTS OF LOWER RIVER, NORTH BANK, AND MACCARTHY ISLAND DIVISIONS, BECAUSE NORMAL EARLY MILLET PRODUCTION OF ABOUT 32,000 TONS HAS BEEN REDUCED BY 9,000 TONS.

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3. VIEWING GRAVITY OF SITUATION, VICE PRESIDENT'S LETTER URGES IMMEDIATE FOOD ASSISTANCE. LETTER ESTIMATES THAT 45 PER CENT OF 415,000 RURAL POPULATION IS BEING BADLY AFFECTED. "THIS IS TO SAY APPROXIMATELY 186,000 PERSONS SHOULD RECEIVE 300 GRAMS OF FOOD A DAY FOR 150 DAYS, AMOUNTING TO 8370 TONS OF CEREALS (RICE, SORGHUM OR BULGAR WHEAT). THE PERIOD OF WORST HARD-SHIP HAS ALREADY BEGUN (MAY TO SEPTEMBER) HENCE THIS REQUEST

FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTNACE."

4. VICE PRESIDENT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SIMILAR REQUESTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO OTHER DONORS. EMBASSY WILL BE DISCUSSING PROBLEM WITH LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES, INCLUDING CRS.

5. COMMENTS WILL FOLLOW BY SEPARATE CABLE. DEPARTMENT AND AID/W WILL RECALL SIMILAR EXERCISE TOOK PLACE DURING SPRING OF 1976. DAKAR/RDO WILL RECALL THAT CROP DAMAGE IN AUGUST/ SEPTEMBER 1976 WAS EXTENSIVELY DISCUSSED DURING EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF CROP PROTECTION AGREEMENT. WYGANT

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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